## TWENTY-NINTH CONGRESS, First Session

Tuespay, March 17, 1846.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. The House, in pursuance of its order of yeste day, met this morning at ten o'clock.

Very few members were present.

The clerk proceeded to read the journal.

Mr. TIBBATTS moved that the further readin

be dispensed with.

Mr. DROMGOOLE wished the journal to read, that it might be seen what kind of entries a made of the proceedings of last night. The SPEAKER put the question on the tion that the further reading of the journal

dispensed with

spensed with.

And it was decided in the negative.

So the House refused to dispense with the further

reading.

The reading of the journal was then conclude ane reading of the journal was then concluded, and it was approved.

Mr. TILDEN rose to inquire whether he was returned on the journal as having been arrested?

The Clerk (replying through the Speaker) said no; none of the members were so returned. The words on the journal were these: "Reported to the House as present."

words on the journal were these: "Reparted to the House as present."

Mr. DROMGOOLE rose, he said, to a correction of the journal. He understood that the names of those members who appeared after the doors were closed, were reported as having been arrested by the

Spergeant-at-Arms.

The Clerk (again replying through the Speaker, said no; the colry was that the Sergeant-at-Arms reported to the Speaker that members who did no answer to their names, and were not excused, were

Mr. DROMGOOLE. My object is to make arr. DRUMGOULE. My object is to make a distinction between those members who were waiting at the door, and had voluntarily arrived, and those who came under process served by the Sergeant-at-Arms; so that he may not get pay for those who were waiting here ready to enter when the doors were opened.

Mr. GEORGE S. HOUSTON. So far as the journal goes, it sees to make the control of the control of

Mr. GEORGE S. HOUSTON. So far as the journal goes, it seems to me that there can be no difference between those members who were standing at the door and those whom the Sergeant-at-Arms brought in. If the gentleman did not desire that these fees should be paid out of the contingent fund, he should have thought of it last night.

Mr. TIBBATTS moved that the House resolve itself into Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union.

Mr. ATKINSON. Mr. Speaker, I wish the journal to be corrected. It speaks falsely.

Mr. ATKINSON. Mr. Speaker, I wish the journal to be corrected. It speaks faisely.
Mr. TIBBATTS (scarcely heard from the deep recesses of his abode on the right of the Speaker) was understood to suggest that these corrections could be made after the question before the House had been disposed of.
Mr. ATKINSON. The correction will not take

The SPEAKER. It is a privileged question

The gentleman will proceed.

Mr. ATKINSON. I suppose that no gentleman which is not true, or wishes to prevent me from making the correction. The journal shows that I was in the custody of the Sergeant-at-Arms. Now, I did not see the Sergeant-at-Arms at all yeaterday.

The entry on the journal was read.

The entry on the journal was read.

Mr. ATKINSON. I aver that I was not out of my house after sunset; the record is not true.
The SPEAKER. The journal will be corrected

Mr. TILDEN. I also wish a correction made a regards myself. The Sergeant-at-Arms had no right to take cognizance of my being present. I was no present under his authority.

Mr. G. S. HOUSTON. Since the journals are

Mr. G. S. HOUSTON. Since the journals are being corrected, I wish it may be corrected in relation to the gcatleman from Ohio, [Mr. Bainkermorr.] who sits in front of me, and who is not at this moment in his seat. I know that he came into the hall last night, and asked me what course he should persue. He said that he was out of the hall; but that he had got in without the knowledge of the Sergeant-at-Arms; yet he is reported among those brought up by that officer.

I wish to put an inquiry to the Speaker. Has it ever been decided by the House, or by the Speaker, that an adjournment of the House, after arrests made on a call of the House, discharges members arrested?

arrested?
The SPEAKER. The chair so decides. All the

precedents have so decided.

Mr. G. S. HOUSTON. Does the chair find the the effort has ever been made?
The SPEAKER, (doubtfully heard, was

derstood to say:) The universal practice of the House had been in accordance with the decision he had nade. Mr. TILDEN. I move that the journal be co

rected as regards myself.

The SPEAKER said, the journal would be co

rected accordingly.

Mr. SCHENCK was understood to say that h name appeared on the list of those brought into the House by the Sergeant-at-Arms. Such was not the fact. He had not seen that officer, and had com House without warning or summons. er a brief conversation between Mr. R. C After a brief conversation between Mr. SCHENCK and the SPEAKER, leading to

The SPEAKER laid before the House the fo

lowing executive communications:
A letter from the Secretary of War, transmitting in answer to a resolution of the House of the 17ti ultimo, reports of surveys of the Tennessee river which letter and reports were laid upon the table.

RIVERS AND HARBORS

The question on the motion of Mr. TIBBATTS having been taken, and decided in the affirmative, the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, (Mr. Thomas Smith, of Indiana, in the chair,) and resumed the consideration of the bill making appropriations for the improvement of certain hydrogram of the consideration. Mr. WOODWARD was entitled to the floor, and

addressed the committee during the hour. After disclaiming any unfriendly feeling towards the West, and expressing the disposition that he felt to gratify his western friends in anything which was consistent with his sense of duty, he proceeded to speak of the bill before the House. It would have been most grateful to his feelings, he said, if he could have regarded it with reference to the question of expediency, but he had strong reasons for looking rather to the question of power. He thought the House ought to be encouraged to look at that question. In some respects it was at this time a question de novo. He considered the bill as operating to revive an exploded and shandard. addressed the committee during the hour disclaiming any unfriendly feeling towards the He considered the bill as operating to revive an ex-ploded and abandoned system; abandoned not only for its inexpediency and its manifest injustice, but for the want of constitutional authority in this body. And he trusted that his friends would make battle

And he trusted that his friends would make battle and fight this question of power once more; although he admitted it was a question on which little could be said that was interesting to the taste, or to the imaginations of gentlemen.

Dry as this constitutional question was, however, he should discuss it upon the broadest principles of common sense, and endeavor to put it in such a shape as, he believed, the most litterate man could not misapprehend. Mr. W., objecting first to this bill, that whether regarded in reference to the question of constitutional power or of expediency, it was not systematic, and remarking that this alone presented an insuperable objection to it, proceeded to exannine and analyze the various provisions of the constitution under which the power was claimed.

Mr. TIBBATTS replied that the gentleman misand to show that it was not legitimately embraced

in any of them.

Devoting the greater portion of his time to this branch of the argument, Mr. W. adverted briefly, towards its close, to the question of expediency. There was enough known to satisfy the House that however unquestionable the power itself might be, it ought not to be exercised. The practical operation of the principle would be in a short time to conit ought not to be exercised. The practical operation of the principle would be in a short time to contion of the principle would be in a short time to conton of the principle would be in a short time to conton of the principle would be in a short time to conton of the principle would be in a short time to conton of the principle would be in a short time to conton the short in the short time to conton of the principle would be in a short time to conton the year to the the short time to conton the year to the the short time to conton the year to year to the year to year the year to the year

been made upon the appropriation for the harbor of St. Louis, and promising to be brief in his remarks, to accommodate the many gentlemen who were desirous of speaking, proceeded to address the committee, taking up the argument (as he said) at the St. Louis, and promising to be brief in his remarks, to accommodate the many gentlemen who were destrous of speaking, proceeded to address the committee, taking up the argument (as he said) at the point where the gentlemen from South Carolina [Mr. Woowans) had left if. The gentlemen had talked about the "public plunder" in relation to the Mississippi river, and of which the West was the processing the indigrantly repudiated such an idea. recipient. He indignantly repudiated such an idea and dwelt upon the manner in which the West settlement, had ever been made the

the benefit and enriching of the East. A thing unparalleled in the history of any government under the canopy of high heaven—their people had bee required to drain their own resources in paymer for the lands on which they settled—the revenue g ing into the treasury, to be expended on other tions of the country; and they had contributed tions of the country; and they had contributed one half of the twenty million dollars paid into the treasury, not one cent of which they would receive in return, unless this bill were passed. He told gendemen that this state of things could not long exist; the energies of any people could not long stand up under such a system.

This House was not the test place to learn a great reverence for the constitution. Those gentlemen who prided themselves upon being straight jacketed in their construction were found, on some occanions to strain that instruments as for existing the strain that instruments.

in their construction were found, on some occa-sions, to strain that instrument as far as other gen-tiemen. He referred to the grants of pensions, fish-ing bounties, the appropriations for light-houses, for the coast survey—the salaries wasted upon which, he said, would draw all the snags from the Mississippi river—and for other purposes which were equally inconsistent with the strictness of con-struction professed by gentlemen as the designed struction professed by gentlemen, as the clearing out of snars and removal of obstacles to the might

struction professed by gentlemen, as the clearing out of snags and removal of obstacles to the mighty commerce of the West.

He took this ground—and he held it was the only true ground—either that the position he occupied was correct, or that of the gentleman from South Carolina, [Mr. Rhzrr.] who would fetter down the government by so strict a construction of the constitution as to make it an entirely impracticable machine.

[Mr. RHETT explained.] [Mr. Rherr explained.]
They owed the protection of the West to the first
western President we ever had—to Gen. Jackson.
He took the middle ground on this subject. He
Gen. J.] did not pretend to say that rivers and harbors could not be the subject of improvement; but
he hald down that they must be national, in contradistinction to be an incomplete the subject of the subject o

he laid down that they must be national, in contra-distinction to local, that they must be general, in contradistinction to private, in their character, and he acted upon that distinction, and signed bills for improvements of this character.

Touching upon many other points, he came to the proposed appropriation for the harbor at St. Louis of \$75,000, in exposition of the object of which, in reply to the remarks of Mr. Jongs, of Tennessee, and of Mr. McClemanso, to whom he gave way for explanation, he stated that the ancient channel of the Mississippi was on the St. Louis side; but by the abrasion on the opposite bank, which was of an he abrasion on the opposite bank, which was of a dluvial soil, the river had spread out some hal mile beyond its natural breadth, so as to be rendered overywhere shallow; but the deep water still was on he St. Louis side. The appropriation, then, was for the removal of obstacles to the navigation of the Missiasippi river at that point; and it was to preserve

Some conversation arose between Mr. BOWLIN Some conversation arose between air. In the mid Mr. McCLERNAND as to the relative depth of the river upon the Missouri and the filinois sides and to the state of the river at St. Louis.

Mr. B. enforced with great earnestness the claim.

Mr. B. enforced with great carnestness the claim the Mississippi in view of its vast commerce, and be great number of lives passing over it annually a national work, and one in an eminent degree studed to receive some small share of the appro-riations so long withheld—a partiality unworthy the government, lavished upon other sections o

Mr. TIBBATTS said he should not have to ended for the floor amid this press of competito ad it not been for the fact that he had had the ho r to report this bill by order of the Committee on Commerce. He noticed first, and replied to, the terms of strong condemnation in which this bill had een characterized by Mr. Panne; and then passed o the merits of the bill. And in the outset he re-udiated and scorned all selfah considerations in the ourse which he had taken upon this bill. Not one ollar of the appropriations included under it was o be expended within the district which he had the onor to represent. It was true, he had taken pecial interest in the Louisville and Portland cana but he did not reside within 150 miles of that cana Mr. T. devoted but a few words to the advocacy of this item, yielding for explanation to Mr. Parns and stating that he had a bill upon the calendar de voted specially to this work which he should en deavor to bring to the consideration of the House a the earliest practicable period.

They might forgive southern gentlemen for oppo

ition to western appropriations, because (in the anguage of the Scriptures) they know not what they do. They were not acquainted with the exten and value of the commerce of the West; but he was astonished at the course a western member [Mr McClernand] had yesterday taken in opposition

to it.

Some explanations took place between Mr. TIB-BATTS and Mr. McCLERNAND as to the position occupied by the latter gentleman on this subject, the doctrines of the democratic party of the State of Illinois upon it, and Mr. McC.'s consistently therewith Acc.

State of Illinois upon it, and Mr. McC.'s consistency therewith, &c.

Mr. T. then proceeded at some length to an argument in favor of the constitutional power of Congress over the improvements contemplated by this bill; referring, also, in support thereof, to the precedents of the uniform action of the democratic party from the foundation of the government, and to the opinions and approval of every President elected by the democratic party from General Washington to Mr. Polk, reading especially and commenting upon extracts from the messages of Presidents Monroe and Jackson. He read from a list of the appropriations made during the successive years of the administrations of General Jackson and Mr. Ven Buren, and declared the fact that there was not a single river contained in this bill for which not a single river contained in this bill for which appropriations had not been made during every year of General Jackson's administration and every year of Mr. Van Buren's, so long as there was any nev in the treasury, signed and approved by of these democratic Presidents; still gentlemen had attempted to invoke their high authorities in support of their plea that these works were unconstitu-

Mr. T. then vindicated these works from the charge of being sectional in their character, and showed their vast importance, as being the channels of commerce for the western valley, which com-merce now equalled twice the amount of all our for-

eign commerce.
The gentleman from South Carolina [Mr. Rhett The gentleman from South Carolina [Mr. Rhett] had said that the South asked for nothing. They certainly then had no right to complain. But the gentleman knew that the committee had no right to report upon appropriations not referred to them. If the South sent impracticable men here who would not send their matters to the committees, the only remedy was to send practicable men. The gentleman talked about following the constitution to the grave. The constitution he spoke of was but the creation of his own brain. Such a ricketty, nerveless, imbecile thing—the sooner it went to the grave the better; and the less pomp, and circumstance, and show of grief they made over it the better would they consult the honor of its parentage.

interpreted entirely what he said. He said that the gentleman from South Carolina had said that the South asked for nothing. The Tennessee river was presented to that committee, but no informa-

Mr. W. was cut off before he had concluded this branch of his argument.

Mr. BOWLIN obtained the floor, and yielded to Mr. GROVER, who gave notice of an amendment to appropriate, for a survey of the Alleghany river between Olean and Pittsburg, \$10,000 the limburg. For the improvement of the harbor at Pulteneyville, on Lake Ontario, \$10,000.

Mr. BOWLIN, assigning as one great reason for his addressing the committee, the attacks which had becaused as a second content of the large of

claims which the amendment of his colleague; [Mr. CROZIER,] for the improvement and continuation of the carnal round the Muscle sheals, in the Tennessee river, and for removing obstructions in that river, had upon the consideration of Congress, by reason of its national importance, and of the diffusive benefits held out by it to the Union, and especially to the whole western country.

But a few moments remained of the time allotted to debate.

reason of its national importance, and of the diffusive benefits held out by it to the Union, and especially to the whole western country.

But a few moments remained of the time allotted to debate.

Mr. D. P. KING brought to the attention of the formmittee the amendment of which he had given notice, and said a word netwo in its support.

Messys. E. B. HOLMES, BELL, SYKES, and a Coneaut, \$19,000. Rejected.

ROBERTS, respectively gave notice of amendments they intended to offer.

Mr. CLARKE said he had desired, had he Rejected. been successful in obtaining the floor at an cer-lier period, to have given his views. He could only say now that he was one of those who opposed the whole system of internal improvements as uncon-stitutional, unequal, and oppressive. After a word or two of conversation by Messrs. G. S. HOUSTON and CROZIER, The house fives having arrived, the committee

The hour of two having arrived, the

occeded to vote.
Mr. ANDREW JOHNSON some time proposed to strike out all this amendment after the word "For," with which it commences, and to insert

"The improvement of the Tennessee river and its aries, the sum of five hundred thousand dallend

Fork, in White county, Tennessee." Rejected.

The question was then taken on the amendment of Mr. Crozzer, (heretofore published,) making an appropriation for the Muscle Shoal canal, and for the removal of obstructions in the Tennessee river; which, by yeas 75, noes 79, was rejected.

Mr. YANCEY moved an amendment, appropriating \$50,000 for the improvement of the harbor at Mobile; which, by ayes 13, noes not counted, was rejected.

rejected.
Mr. JOHN A. ROCKWELL offered an amend

ment, proposing an appropriation of \$10,000 for the improvement of the Thames river; ayes 30, noes ot counted. Rejected.
Mr. TIBBATTS, under instructions from the Committee on Commerce, moved a verbal amend-mend in the item for the harbor at Buffalo; (which

was subsequently agreed to.)
Some conversation followed on a point of order
between Messrs. COBB, TIBBATTS, and the CHAIRMAN.
[Mr. THOS. B. KING complained that member

ould hear nothing, and see very tittle.]
Mr. TIBBATTS offered a series of amendments under the instructions of the committee who report-ed the bill, which led to some further discussion on a point of order, the result of which was that the bill was ordered to be read by sections, that amend-ments might be offered in the appropriate places. A great number of amendments were offered. Some of them were very imperfectly heard, but they were lugged in, according to their order, in the best manner in which we could get hold of them.

By Mr. SAWYER: To reduce the appropriation for the breakwater at Burlington, Lake Champlain, from fifteen to twelve thousand dollars. Rejected.

The item of \$10,000 for the improvement of the harbor at Port Ontario, on Lake Onterio, being

ad— Mr. HOUGH moved to strike out \$10,000, an insert \$15,000. It was negatived. The item of \$5,000 for the improvement of Bi

odus bay, on Lake Ontario, being read—
Mr. DE MOTT moved to strike out \$5,000, an
insert \$10,000. It was negatived.
By Mr. PRESTON KING: To amend the iter appropriating "\$20,000 for the construction of dredge boat for Lake Ontario," by adding the wor

reage boat for Lake Ontario," by adding the wo 'and for the river St. Lawrence." Agreed to. By Mr. W. HUNT: For the improvement the harbor of Eighteen-mile creek, on Lake On-rio, \$5,000. Rejected. [A message was received from the Senate, by

bickens, esq., informing the House of the passa y the Senate of certain bills, &c...] By Mr. J. R. INGERSOLL: For the purpo of making a survey and investigation of the rive Delaware, with a view to the construction of ice harbors, \$3,000. Rejected. By Mr. FICKLIN: That the sum of \$30,000 b

By Mr. FICKLIN: That the sum of \$30,000 be and the same is hereby appropriated for the improvement of the harbor at Mt. Carmei, \$50,000 for the improvement of the harbor at Vincennes, 25,000 for the improvement of the harbor and steamboat landing at Leroy, \$25,000 for the improvement of the harbor at Hutsonville, \$25,000 for the improvement of the harbor at York, and \$30,000 for the improvement of the harbor at Danvin, on the Wabash river. Negatived.

The item of \$20,000 for the harbor at the mouth of Genese river, being read—

Inc item of \$20,000 for the harbor at the mouth of Genesee river, being read—
Mr. SAWYER moved to strike out \$20,000 and to incert \$15,000. Negatived.
By Mr. PERRY: The amendment given in yesterday's proceedings in relation to the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company. Rejected.
By Mr. ISAAC E. HOLMES: For the improvement of the harbors of Tavas.

nt of the harbors of Texas, two milli-

lars. Rejected.

By Mr. E. B. HOLMES: For the improver

By Mr. E. B. HOLM ES: For the improvement of the mouth of Sandy Creek, on Lake Ontario, ten thousand dollars. Rejected.

By Mr. DE MOTT: For the improvement of the harbor at Pultneyville, on Lake Ontario, ten thou-sand dollars: Rejected.

By Mr. SEDDON: For the removal of obstruc-tions to the navigation of James river, between the city of Richmond and Harrison's bar, and the im-provement of the next of said city in the State.

provement of the port of said city, in the State of Virginia, the sum of \$40,000. Rejected.

By Mr. SAWYER: To reduce the appropriation for the harbor at Buffalo from fifty thousand dollars to fourteen thousand dollars; by ayes 35, noes

06, rejected.

By Mr. SIMS: For the survey and location of a ute for a railroad, and for the construction of the me, from a suitable point on the Mississippi, or lissouri, to the Southwest pass in the Rocky

Amendment by Mr. CONSTABLE: The said road to be located north of the 49th parallel. [No

ent of Mr. Stewart rejected. By Mr. BRODHEAD: For the improvement of the Columbia river in Oregon, \$100,000.

By Mr. CONSTABLE: To add "after the experience of the Columbia river in Oregon, \$100,000. piration of twelve months from this day."

By Mr. A. JOHNSON: To add to Mr. Bron-By Mr. A. JOHNSON: To add to Mr. Bron-Hran's amendment: "For the construction of a canal though the isthmus of Darien, connecting the waters of the Pacific with the Atlantic, one million dollars; to be expended under the direction of the Secretary of War, and such other persons, not ex-ceeding five in number, as may be appointed by the President.

President.
The chair decided this amendment out of order.
Mr. RATHBUN, (adverting to Mr. BRODHEAD's
amendment,) had no objection (he said) to a little
sport, but he thought it was carrying the thing
ruber too for the cooperate appropriate for the ather too far, to propose an appropriation for the Columbia river, until we knew whether we owned it "But the title is clear and

questionable, you know."

Mr. RATHBUN made a remark, of which, in the confusion, nothing was heard except that he had no doubt of our title.

The CHAIRMAN said the amendment was in

It was rejected.
Mr. ISAAC E. HOLMES indicated, but did n take, an appeal from the decision of the Chair, ruling out of order Mr. Andrew Johnson's amendment.

Mr. GEORGE W. JONES offered the following

interpreted entirely what he said. He said that the gentleman from South Carolina had said that the South asked for nothing. The Tennessee river was presented to that committee, but no information was presented to that committee, but no information was presented to them in relation to it. He din not blame the gentleman from Transessee for it, because the information was not obtained from the executive department until this morning. Another reason why they had not included it was, that it travelled one step beyond the scope that the committee had marked out for itself. They had appropriated only for the Hudson and the Mississippi, and its main branches.

Mr. J. would remark that, in his opinion, the amendment was equally unconstitutional with the should vote against the bill as amended. But it his money is to be unconstitutionally drawn from this money is to be unconstitutionally drawn from the treasury, he thought this the more inst-equitable mode.

rquitable mode.

The motion was not at present in order.

Mr. NORRIS moved the following item:

To improve the navigation of the Cochico river and the harbor of Dover, New Hampshire, \$10,000.

Rejected.

By Mr. LA SERE: For dredging the bars at the mouths of the Mississippi river, and constructing the necessary works to keep the channel open 450 000. Rejected.

\$50,000. Rejected.

By Mr. SCAMMON: For a pier on the harbor of Cape Porpoise, in the State of Maine, as reported by Colonel Abert of the Bureau of Topographi-By Mr. SYKES: Ten thousand dollars for improving the navigation of the Delaware river between Trenton and Bordentown, in accordance with the surveys made under the direction of the United

States engineers. Rejected, By Mr. COBB: For the improvement of the Flint

Mr. S. also submitted the following resolution which was agreed to: Which was agreed to:

Resolved, That the Committee on the Militia be is ed to inquire into the expediency of organizing the of the United States on the following basis, to wit:

Maumee bay and river, \$20,000—ayes 55, noes 87.

Rejected.

By Mr. McCLERNAND: For the improvement of the navigation of the Ohio river at the Grand and Little Chains, near the confluence of the Cumberland and Tennessee rivers, \$50,000."

By Mr. PAYNE: That every surplus dollar in treasury, after deducting the legitimate expenditures of government, be distributed among the States, according to the federal ratio of representation, to be applied by the States for the purpose of regulating commerce, by digging canals, or purchasing those stready dug; building roads, clearing out rivers, making harbors, establishing ferries, erect-

rivers, making harbors, establishing ferries, erecting bridges, &c. &c. Rejected.

By Mr. BROCKENBROUGH: To distribute

By Mr. BROCKENBROUGH: To distribute among the several States, according to the provisions of the deposite act, all the money in the treasury on the lat of October next, not otherwise appropriated, exceeding one million of oldlars. Rejected.

By the Mr. BELL (read for information only:)
To deposite with the several States the sum of two millions of dollars, in part payment of the fourth instalment.

A motion was made that the committee rise. A motion was made that the committee rise

Rejected.
The item of \$10,000 for the harbor of Southport n Wisconsin, was read.
Mr. MARTIN moved to strike out \$10,000, and neert \$15,000. Negatived.
Mr. MARTIN moved to insert the following

em:
"To aid in the construction of a harbor at th

"To aid in the construction of a harbor at the mouth of Sheboygan river, on the western shore of Lake Michigan, \$10,000." Negatived.

By Mr. DANIEL P. KING: For the completion of the breakwater at Sandy bay, Massachusetts, thirty thousand dollars.

For the improvement of the harbor at Lane's cove, seven thousand dollars.

For the preservation of Lynn harbor and Nahant beach, twenty thousand dollars.

By Mr. TIBBATTS, (from the Committee on Commerce:) For the works at Bridgeport, Connecticut, \$15,000. Agreed to.

Commerce:) For the works at Bridgeport, Connecticut, \$15,000. Agreed to.

By the same: For obstructions in the harbor of Providence, Rhode Island, Agreed to.

By M. ABBOTT: For improving the harbor of Newburyport, and the navigation of the Merrimac river, in Massachusetts, \$15,000. Rejected.

By Mr. MelLVAINE: For the construction of

By Mr. JAMES THOMPSON: For the in provement of the harbor at North Gut, on La Erie, in the State of Pennsylvania, \$5,000. By Mr. TRUMAN SMITH: For completi

in the State of Connecticut, \$15,000. Rejected.

By the same: For improving (in conformity with
surveys and estimates heretofore made by the government of the United States) the harbor of Stamford, in the State of Connecticut, \$15,000. Rejected.

By Mr. JAMES THOMPSON: For the improvement of the Alleghany river between Pittsburg,
Pennsylvania, and Olean, New York, \$50,000. Re-

By Mr. GROVER: For a survey of the Allegha The item of \$15,000 for the harbor of Newcastle

n Delaware, being read—
Mr. HOUSTON moved to strike out \$15,000, and he Delaware breakwater being read—
Mr. HOUSTON moved to amend the same b riking out \$75,000, and insert \$100,000.

It was negatived. By Mr. HAMPTON: For the comm a breakwater on Crow shoal, at Cape May roads, in the Deleware bay, \$100,000, to be expended under the direction of the Secretary of War.

By Mr. CUNNINGHAM: For the survey of

For removing the obstructions in Newark bay \$15,000. Agreed to. By the same: For improving the harbor at Havn

By the same: For improving the harbor at Havre de Grace, \$20,000. Agreed to.
By Mr. CROZIER: For the improvement and continuation of the canal round the Muscle shouls, in the Tennessee river, and for removing obstructions in said river, \$100,000; by ayes 78, noes 58, agreed to.

By Mr. GILES: To strike out the item for the
Louisville and Portland Canal—by ayes 76, noes

77, rejected.

By Mr. DOUGLASS: And also for the purchase of the Illinois and Michigan canal from the State of Illinois, such sum as may be necessary; which the President of the United States is hereby authorized President of the United States is hereby authorized to purchase, if it can be obtained on such terms as he shall deem a fair and reasonable price, for the purpose of opening a ship canal between and lakes and the Gulf of Mexice, with a view to their defence by the navy of the United States.

By Mr. W. HUNT: For a ship canal around the Balls of N

By Mr. W. HUNT: For a ship canal around the Falls of Niagara, to connect Lakes Eric and Ontario, \$500,000. Rejected.

By Mr. TIBBATTS: To strike out the item for the Hudson river as it now stands, and insert "for

Hudson river above and below Albany, in the State of New York, \$75,000. Agreed to.

By Mr. HERRICK: That \$5,000 of the appropriation for the improvement of the navigation of the Hudson river be applied to that portion of said river lying between the State dam, or Sloop-lock, and

the foot of Grand Division street, in the city of Troy. Rejected. By Mr. SEVERANCE: To remove obstrucsame, from a suitable point on the Mississippi, or Missouri, to the Southwest pass in the Rocky mountains. Rejected.

By Mr. STEWART: That the proceeds of the sales of the public lands be appropriated to make a railroad from Putsburg to Oregon, under the direction of the Secretary of War.

to be expended on that part of said river above the town of Nashville, and \$45.000 on that part of said river below the town of Nashville.

By Mr. BELL: That a portion of the appropriation (amount not heard) be expended on that part

ation (amount not heard) be expensed of the river below the mouth of the Laurel river.

Accepted by Mr. EWING, and the whole rejected.

By Mr. SCHENCK: An appropriation of \$75,-000 for the Cumberland road in Ohio; \$150,000 in Indiana; and \$150,000 in Illinois: by ayes 47, noes

1, rejected.
It was now growing late, and there were yet many amendmennts to be offered.

Mr. JACOB THOMPSON rose and said that there was no necessity to punish itself at this late hour by further progress on the bill, as it would be

He moved that the commi notion being agreed to, the com

WEDNESDAY, March 18, 1846. IN SENATE. The journal having been read-PETITIONS.

Mr. DIX presented the petition of Maurice, Phelps, & Company, and Maurice, Gold, & Com-pany, praying the repayment of certain duties ille-gally exacted by the collector of the port of New York; which was referred to the Committee on

Finance.

Mr. D. also presented the petition of citizens of Genesce county, New York, praying the abro-gation of certain treaties made with the Seneca In-dians; which was referred to the Committee on In-

the town of Pittsford, Monroe county, New York, praying the construction of fortifications at the mouth of the Genesee river; which was referred to

mouth of the Genesee river; which was referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

Mr. CASS presented the petition of Henry R. Shoolcraft, praying to be allowed in the settlement of of his accounts a credit for certain disbursements, and compensation for extra services rendered while Indian agent in Michigan; which was referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

Mr. ALLEN presented the memorial of the representative of John Baptiste Viscount de Lomague, an officer in the revolutionary army, praying to be allowed commutation pay; which was referred to the Committee on Revolutionary Claims.

red to the Committee on Revolutionary Claims.

Mr. DAYTON presented the memorial of the
New Jersey Historical Society, praying the publication by Congress of an increased number of copies of the scientific works of the Exploring Expedition; which was referred to the Committee on the Library.

Mr. SEMPLE submitted the following resolu-tion; which was agreed to: Revolved. That the Committee on Private Land Claims by Instituted the institute of the ancient French instance of Peoria, in the State of Illinois, to lands and lots at that place, and if it shall be found that they had rights to lands or lots which have not been confirmed, then to inquire and report what action is necessary to be taken to confirm these rights.

THE MILITIA

Mr. ASHLEY, from the Committee on the Judi-ciary, reported a bill to refund a fine imposed upon Thomas Cooper, under the sedition law, accom-panied by a report; which was ordered to be print-

ed.

Mr. FAIRFIELD, from the Committee on Naval Affairs, submitted an adverse report upon the petition of Elizabeth Sevier; which was ordered to be printed.

Mr. BENTON, from the Committee on Military Affairs, submitted the following report; which was ordered to be printed: The Committee on Military affairs, to was referred the memorial of sundry officers of the army of the United States at Corpus Christi, in relation to staff rank and brevet rank,

REPORT That they have seen an order of the President of the United States, dated on the 12th day of the present month, re-establishing the regulation of August 13th, 1829, by President Jackson, in relation to brevet and staff rank, and abrogating all subsequent regulations in relation thereto; and believing the said regulation of August 13th, 1829, to be a correct exposition of the rules and articles of war in relation to the subject, and that the re-establishment of said regulation has applied the adequate and appropriate remedy to the evils complained of in the memorial, and has supresseded the necessity for legislation on the subject, the committee bring back into the Senate the memorial committed to them, and pray to be discharged from its United States, dated on the 12th day of the itted to them, and pray to be discharged from its

arther consideration.

Mr. JOHNSON, of Louisiana, from the Com-

abelt Gasaway.

Also a report recommending the indefinite postponement of the bill granting a pension to Noah Conner; which were severally ordered to be printed.

Mr. J. also, from the same committee, asked that
said committee be discharged from the further consideration of the petitions of Samuel R. Read and
George Guier, and that they be referred to the
Committee on Naval Affairs; which was agreed to.

Mr. J. also, from the Committee on Pensions,
reported, without amendment, a bill explanatory
of the fourth section of an act making appropriations for the civil and diplomatic expenses of the
government for the year ending 30th June, 1846,
and for other purposes, approved March 3d, 1845.

Mr. NILES moved that 5,000 copies of a recent
report of the Postmaster General be printed for the
use of the Senate; which was agreed to.

EXPORT OF COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS.

BEFORE OF COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS Mr. ATHERTON moved to take up the repor of the Committee on Printing recommending the printing of the report of the Commissioner of Patents, and briefly advocated the printing of the number of copies recommended by the committee, who had evinced their desire to economize by recommending the printing of a much less number than last ear.
Mr. SEVIER entered into some historical details

Mr. SEVIER entered into some historical details relative to the origin and progress of the patent office, and expressed his great alarm in beholding the magnitude which it had assumed. It had actually grown up to be a branch of the government. He was quite alarmed at this. Their fathers had got on very well in their good old moderate way, with a patent office confined to a single room in the old post office. But now they had got a great granite building—and a commissioner—and a team of clerka—and connected with it, he believed as

granite building—and a commissioner—and a team of clerks—and connected with it, he believed, a squadron of the navy, which had gone over the whole world to bring back stones, and fossils, and birds, and Fejee wigs.

Mr. CASS. Egyptian mummies.

Mr. SEVIER. Yes; and also Egyptian mummies—and all sorts of seeds—turnip seed, and cabbages, and lettuces—in fact, almost everything he had heard of, and a great many things of which he had not heard, with names which he could not make out at all, and had to get his friends from Alabama and Pennsylvania to make out their meaning ama and Pennsylvania to make out their meaning or him. They had gone far enough in this busices. He was tired of this spending money for the rinting of a book about buckwheat and Indian orn. Of the documents accompanying the President's message, full of valuable information relative the foreignalistic advantage. dent's message, full of valuable information relative to the foreign relations, the finances, army, navy, Indian affairs, and everything else of the country, only fifteen hundred copies were printed. This patent office had gone too far ahead. It had all turned out just as he had anticipated years ago when it was proposed to build that magnificent structure. He supposed if the revulsion of 1837 had not come they would have proposed to build a great national church alongside the patent office, so that they might all worship there beside that national curiosity. He thought a stop should be nut somewhere to that magnificent humbug—the patent

the agricultural classes of a work which had been sought for with so much eagerness, was easily met. There was a surplus fund of more than \$100,000 to the credit of the patent office, and it was only just that some portion of it should be returned to the people by the publication and circulation of a document which had met with such unequivocal favor. He could hardly undertake to reply seriously to the asseaults which had been made upon the patent office as a useful department of the public service. It was well known that at that office intelligence at the thought the best efforts of every men should be the consequences of the war that was to come. He was ready to the senator from Ohio, that, in the asseault that he was to come. He was ready to the senator from Ohio any sentiments he had not avowed, nor had he meant to insinuate that he was the reckies advocate of war; for he supposed the gentleman thought that war might be required by the senator from Ohio, that, in the vent of war, we should be triumphant on every wave and in every field. He was willing to concede the gentleman thought that war might be ready to assume, with the senator from Ohio, that, in the vent of war, we should be triumphant on every wave and in every field. He was willing to concede the gentleman thought that war might be recarded to the senator from Ohio, that, in the throught that war might be required by the senator from Ohio, that, we went of war, we should be triumphant on every wave and in every field. He was war and in every field. He was well at the senator from Ohio, that, in the senator from Ohio, that, in the senator from Ohio, that, we have and in every field. He was to come.

It was well known that at the senator from Ohio, that, in the senator from Ohio, that, we have and in every field. He was to come.

It was well known that at the senator from Ohio, that, we have and in every field. He was to come.

It was well known that at the senator from Ohio, that, we have the senator from Ohio, that, we have and in every field. He

1. Within each and every district containing one thousand free white male critizens of the United States over the age of twarty-one and under the age of they years, there shall be raised, by voluntary enrolment or otherwise, one company of one hundred militisamen, to be sregained and disciplined as may be provided by law; and the whole, or any part of them, may be called into the service of the United States, they shall be called into the service of the United States, they shall be bound to serve for five years, unless sooned sicknarged.

2. Whenever any part of the militia shall be called into the service of the United States, they shall be bound to serve for five years, unless sooned sicknarged.

3. All non-demnissioned officers and officers of the line as high as the rank of captain, shall be elected by the men outposing each company from among themselves.

4. All officers above the rank of captain shall be elected by the men of the shall be speciated unless the shall be speciated unless the shall be speciated unless the taken from the officers or man composing this milliar and all promotions, shall be made from the officers or man composing the milliar and all promotions is samply to correct what he believed was a missing to men!

5. Officers to drill by regiments once a year, and to receive new for the time, not exceeding one week.

6. Each company to drill ouce a year, or oftener, if they shall be and price of the time.

6. Each company to drill ouce a year, or oftener, if they shall be appointed unless to drill by regiments once a year, and to receive new for the time, not exceeding one week.

6. Each company to drill ouce a year, or oftener, if they before him a pamoblet containing the report of the Commissioner of Patents, assued by some publisher in Philadelphia, and that some members of Con-gress had sold the document. It would have been gress had soid the document. It would have been more liberal and nearer the mark to have supposed the fact that the Philadelphia publisher, aware of the value of the document and its popularity, had ordered an edition from the public printer for his use. That was a common procedure. He hoped that there would be no alteration in the number

that there would be no alteration in the number of copies recommended to be printed by the committee Mr. NILES said he had a word to say. Since this question was up the other day, he had looked into the history of the legislation on the subject, so far as there had been any to sanction the compilation and publication of these reports, and he found it to be this: in 1836 the patent office was reorganized, and raised from a mere clerkship, attached to the State Department, into an independent bureau, or, perhaps he might say, an independent department. In the act passed at that time, there was a section appropriating one thousand dollars to be a section appropriating one thousand dollars to be expended by the Commissioner of Patents in collecting agricultural statistics. It was a mere appropriation, and could have no effect beyond the ensuing year. Since that period, there has been annually an appropriation of one thousand dollars for the same object, until last year, when an appropriation of three thousand dollars was smuggled through Congress for procuring agricultural statistics, without the restriction that it was to be expended by the Commissioner of Patents. I say (said Mr. N.) this appropriation was smuggled through Congress. this appropriation was smuggled through Congress because I believe that very few members of either house knew anything about it; and much less did they know the object for which it was intended. No one can have supposed that this three thousand dollars was designed to create another office, and be dollars was designed to create another office, and be a provision for paying the incumbent. But such, he understood, had been the fact; this sum had beer given to another person, the gentleman who had formuly been at the head of the patent office, who had collected the information which made up the present report. We had now two officers, each receiving three thousand dollars per annum; one who took charge of the patent office, and another who collected statistical information and compiled the report on agriculture. What was a mere clerkship a few years ago had grown up to be an independent department, and was was a mere clerkship a few years ago had grown up to be an independent department, and was now dividing itself and forming another distinct and independent bureau, which might be called the bureau of agriculture. We have taken the first step, and have to take but one or two steps more, and this bureau will be established. The senator from New Hampshire [Mr. Атневтом] misunderstood his remarks the other day. He did not say that this proceeding was wholly without law but he said it was irregular, and, in the extent to

which it had gone, was without any legal regula-tion or sanction. What is the legal authority when the had gone, was without any legal regula-tion or sanction. What is the legal authority? Why, previous to last year, it has been an annual appropriation of one thousand dollars, to be ex-pended by the Commissioner of Patents in procuring statistics of agriculture. An appropriation bill does not usually involve an expenditure beyond the amount appropriated; but in this case, the appro-priation of one thousand dollars has grown into an expenditure of one hundred thousand dollars. But

triation of one thousand dollars has grown into an expenditure of one hundred thousand dollars. But the appropriation was for collecting agricultural statistics. And how has it been expended? Why, in collecting materials consisting of essays on agricultura subjects—some original, and others extracts from other publications—for a large volume, which is called a report. In this publication last year, consisting of more than five hundred pages, there were but two pages of agricultural statistics. It has none of the characteristics of a report, but is a volume composed of essays and articles on various agricultural subjects, many of which had appeared in other agricultural publications in the country. He thought it time to put a stop to such irregular and useless expenditures. He had a word to say in reply to the remarks of the senator from Pennsylvania, [Mr. Camenox] he was not mistaken in his remarks the other day in regard to these reports having been in the hands of the booksellers. The senator supposed the copy he read was a reprint of this report. It was not so. The copy on his table is our publication, and one of the copies printed by order of Congress. No bookseller has republished this report. They could purchase it cheaper than they could reprint it; and if they had reprinted it, they would have done it in a much cheaper form. The copies we have printed at the public expense have found their way into the hands of the book sellers; and it was not for him to say how they got there.

Mr. ASHLEY next rose, and was about to reply

there.

Mr. ASHLEY next rose, and was about to reply

SPECIAL ORDER-"THE NOTICE."

The Senate accordingly proceeded to the consideration of the notice, &c.

Mr. ARCHER addressed the Senate: It was bimself, and he could those lecturers—he could.

Let senators only thick of it—lecturers to teach men how to saw oats! He never went to hear such lectures. How much did the patent office cost! Could his friend from Pennsylvania, [Mr. Came and,] tell? No; he shook his head, he could not tell. Nobody could till. He supposed it cost more than the State Department. All of their old commodores and their captains were instructed to fill up their vessels with seeds and plants, and all sorts of trash, and to bring them to the patent office. He hoped his friend from Connecticut, [Mr. Nilsa.] who, with himself, generally stood at the door of the iresury, and took care of all the money they had got there, would limit the number to five thousand; that would be quite sufficient. A cart load of this document had been sent to his village, (he did not the controlled problem) in the could not transplet to other senators; he did not answer any letters at all; that was by far the best plan—he did not often hear from the postmaster, but one day he found him in a terrible pucker because the documents felled up his room so that he could not turn ments felled up his room so that he could not turn ments felled up his room so that he could not turn ments felled up his room so that he could not turn ments felled up his room so that he could not turn ments felled up his room so that he could not turn ments felled up his room so that he could not turn ments felled up his room so that he could not turn ments felled up his room so that he could not turn ments felled up his room so that he could not turn ments felled up his room so that he could not turn ments felled up his room so that he could not turn the senators and the could not turn the captaints and free deplored the violent invectives which has country say the deplored the violent invectives which had been invention of the patents of the question of the patents of the question was one of nerve and patriotism, and that those who did not take a peculiar view of the question was one of

to prepare the hearts of the people for compromise and peace. That was a question of war, and what sort of a war? Was it a war they were to estimate by the ships sunk or men slaughtered? Not at all. That would be a most erroneous mode of estimating it indeed. It would be a war the most destructive of the elements of human prosperity that was recorded in human history. It would be a very remarkable one in this view, that not a blow this country would have the power to indict that would not recoil on our own shoulders. They had an interest in the affairs of that power with whom they were incited to go to war scarcely inferior to that they had in their own. A picture had been drawn of the prospects of this country in case the Union was preserved, and he believed nothing could be said extravagant on that subject. But what was the talisman on which depended the realization of these hopes? Peace; because peace was essential to that expansion and production by which these hopes are to be realized. In annihilating commerce you annihilate commerce, and in annihilating commerce you annihilate commerce, and in annihilating commerce you annihilate all tendency to expansion. Now, he contended that that was a question of war, and a war of the character he had described. It was not necessary to prove that proposition. There was a territory, which, by their own concession, was held in confinence which it was done was the result of their own proposition. During that period they had given as a qual dominion to that power; and would any man say, that if they undertook now to settle the controversy by the strong hand of force—by seizing the world so contemptible as to sulmit to it? They had seen told of the probability of Great Britain assenting to the seizure of the whole by the United States, and that by those who were still preaching her arrogance and pride; but if she had so much arrogance and pride; but if she had so much arrogance and pride; but if she had so much arrogance and pride; but if she had so much arrogance and pri

gon it would be tantamount to a declaration that ware to have war. Now he wanted the people of the are to have war. Now he wanted the people of the country to be apprised of the real character of that war. How had that question assumed the fearful aspect it then had? How did it happen that the relations established between the two countries by the conventions of 1818 and 1827 were sought to be destroyed? If they were to have war it would be one entirely unprovoked by our adversary; nor was it one that would condust to the object sought, which was Oregon. Now no man could 'dispute, that no was Oregon. on the transport of the content of t

was a mistaken one. He said if we had one growth of tide, and acquired another, we could make use o both. That was quite true; but they must not be repugnant titles, as these were; for if our title by discovery was good, it must be that that of Spain was bad; if the Spanish title was good, there was good they was good to go ours. in what to the way of the shooth his head, he could not tell. No long you did! If see upseed it can more in the seed and plants, and all was a constructed to filture their vesses what seed and plants, and all was a constructed to filture their vesses what seed and plants, and all was a constructed to filture their vesses what seed and plants, and all was a constructed to filture their vesses what seed and plants, and all was a constructed to the part of the vesses and the seed and plants of the seed